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# Anti-Red Group 'Lost' In State Dept. Shuffle

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## 'Reprisals' Draw Fire In Congress

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In apparent reprisal for Congressional criticism of its security program, the State Department this week quietly transferred its entire six-man team of hardline anti-Communists from work in the personnel security field.

The move is almost certain to inflame the simmering war on the "security risks" issue between the State Department and lawmakers of both parties on Capitol Hill.

### REVEALING MOVE

Informed of the latest development today, U. S. Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio), declared:

"If ever there was a stupid— and at the same time deeply revealing—move at this particular juncture in its history, it's State's decision to banish six more of its most accomplished anti-Communist career men. With Otto Otepka, that makes seven.

Rep. Ashbrook, a member of

the House UN-American Activities Committee has introduced a bill calling for a probe of the State Dept.

"This transfer," he said, "shows an arrogance toward the opinions of the Congress and our previous legislative enactments dealing with internal security.

### CRITICIZES POLICY

"Added to its policy of appeasing Communism, the transfer of these six security officers not only illustrates the department's true posture on the Red issue, but its almost uncanny deviousness in fending off any influences from Congress which might change that posture.

"There has been a constant playing down of the internal security threat during the past three years. Communist subversion efforts have continued strong and unfortunately our guard has been lowered and lowered and lowered."

The order transferring the six anti-Communists was effective on Monday. It was seemingly aimed at plugging the "leaks" from State which have found their way recently to the Hill.

### LAST VESTIGES

The order removes the last vestiges of the tough anti-Red screening board which the late Scott McLeod installed in 1953 as administrator of the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs.

Mr. McLeod's chief lieutenant, Mr. Otepka, already had been squeezed out as a result of adverse testimony about the department's security program before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

All of the six affected by the transfer are World War II veterans, two—like McLeod himself—were once FBI agents.

They include Raymond Loughton, a lawyer and former deputy director of security for the Defense Dept.; Harry Hite, also a lawyer and highly skilled evaluator of investigators' reports; and Francis Ardner, former FBI agent.

### NONE WILL COMMENT

Also Edwin Burkhardt, whose investigative talents are almost as legendary as those of the fictional James Bond; John R. Norpel, former FBI agent; and Howard Shee, another investigator.

Described by their friends as "incensed" over the unexpected shuffle, none of the six would comment on the matter yesterday.

But it was learned that they spent the first two days of their assignment in a new office of the big building in Foggy Bottom reading newspapers and brochures on foreign countries and waiting for someone to tell them what to do. They are still waiting.

The department's official version of the transfer is that "the men are on an important new mission."

### ABRASIVE EFFECT

But there's not the slightest doubt of the abrasive effect the transfer will have on the growing list of critics of the State Department in the Senate and House of Representatives. Two bills calling for an investigation of State recently have been introduced on Capitol Hill.

"Both those bills, probably will be yanked out of the hopper in a hurry," said one Congressional aide, when informed of the veteran security sextet's sudden switch to position of ineffectuality.

"In one fell swoop State has tipped its mitt," he continued. "It has shown how it really feels about the Reds, pinkos and sex deviates in its midst by throwing away the lock and key."

The six transferred security officers were, in effect, the "house dicks" of the department. They knew where all the bodies were buried among the 24,000 employees.

Of these, about 7,000 are U.S. citizens in Washington, about 7,000 are U.S. citizens abroad and about 10,000 are foreigners working in 274 overseas consular posts and legations and 108 embassies.

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